

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

✉ After completing my paper on Austronesian Transport (*RNJ* 8,3:67-70), a book was brought to my attention by Tricia Allen at the Rapa Nui Rendezvous in Laramie, Wyoming. It concerns an item in Peter Buck's book *Arts and Crafts of Hawaii* (Bishop Museum Special Publication 45, 1957). In it, *holua*, the Hawaiian equivalent to the Rapa Nui *hakape'i*, is described. In Hawai'i, sliding down a hill was not done on banana stems but on a specially constructed, very narrow sled, called "*papa*". This sled is composed of two narrow runners from 7 to 18 feet long. The fore ends of the runners curve upwards in order to prevent them from digging into the runway during the slide down the mountain. The forward curve and the horizontal piece resemble the fore end of a canoe outrigger float, from which they undoubtedly were copied. The intriguing part of the description is quoted from Ellis (1839:299-300) that says, "At the foremost end there is a space of about two inches between the runners, but they widen gradually towards the hinder part, where they are distant from each other four to five inches." So here again we find the wedge-shape! It seems that only one of these sleds is still in existence at the Bishop Museum in Hawai'i. But Buck (1957:379-384) reports that traces of the old runways can still be seen throughout the Hawaiian islands.

Herbert von Saher, Netherlands

✉ In regard to the *moai* "sighting" in the June issue of *RNJ* (Vol.8,2:49) to which your reader in England, Paul Bahn, took exception, he should realize that *moai* continue to work in mysterious ways around the planet and that they may be evolving into a new, non-conventional design manifestation!

Calvin Malone, San Francisco.

✉ Canadian *Rapanuiphile*, David Foot, recently provided us with some articles regarding Easter Island stamps and postal markings that appeared in *Pacifica, The Journal of the Pacific Islands Study Circle of Great Britain*. They provide a fascinating glimpse of history, ranging from the Canadian Medical Expedition of 1964 to the recent furor over stamps from French Polynesia that were perceived to be some sort of political plot. The articles are:

- Vol.26(104):48 for July 1988;
- Vol. 27(107):32 for April 1989;
- Vol. 28(113):132-4 for October, 1990, titled "Easter Island. 1951 Early Flights and Cachets", by Tony Dodd.
- Vol. 28(116):93-7 for July 1991, titled "Easter Island--Its Postmarks", by Derek Palmer.
- Vol. 29(117):138-9 for October 1991, titled "Easter Island Postal Markings, Additions to Original Article" by Rufus Barnes;
- Vol. 31(122):7-8 for January 1993 titled "Easter Island Notes" by Bill Newport; and
- Vol. 31(124):104-5, for July 1993 titled "Easter Island Update" by Bill Newport.

PUBLICATIONS

• Anderson, Atholl; Helen Leach; Ian Smith; and Richard Walter. 1994. Reconsideration of the Marquesan sequence in East Polynesia prehistory with particular reference to Hane (MUH 1). *Archaeology in Oceania* 29(1):29-52.

• Becker, Nancy. 1994. Easter Island: The Archaeological Legacy of Rapa Nui. *Site Saver: The Newsletter of Sacred Sites International Foundation*. V(1):1,4,6. Berkeley, California.

• *Bulletin of String Figures Association*, No.19; 1993. P.O.Box 5134, Pasadena, CA 91117. Edited by Mark A. Sherman, Ph.D. This issue contains a paper by Dr. Sherman titled "Evolution of the Easter Island String Figure Repertoire", pp. 19-87.

• *Bulletin of the International String Figure Association*, Vol.1, XX-XX, 1994. This is the new series beginning this year; Vol.1 contains articles on Nauru Island figures and those from the Austral Islands.

The *Bulletin* of the International String Figure Association was founded in 1978 by Dr. Hiroshi Noguchi (Japan) and Philip Noble (Scotland). The function of the Association is to collect, preserve and study string figures and associated lore from around the world, as well as to share and distribute knowledge. The original *Bulletin* was issued in 19 volumes from 1978-1993. Annual dues are \$25. contact Mark Sherman, ed., ISFA, PO Box 5134, Pasadena CA 91117.

• Butinov, Nikolai A. 1994. Easter Island: Rongorongo Treating of Migration. *Rongorongo Studies* 4(2):57-63.

• *The Centre for South Pacific Studies Newsletter* 8(3) for October 1994.

• *L'Echo de Rapa Nui*, No. 28 for Octobre, 1994. Belgium.

• Finney, Ben. 1993. Rediscovering Polynesian Navigation through Experimental Voyaging. *The Journal of Navigation* (Royal Institute of Navigation, London). Vol. 46(3):295-394. [This paper won the Bronze Medal from the Royal Institute of Navigation for the best paper of the year in the Journal.]

• Finney, Ben. 1994. Polynesian Voyagers to the New World. *Man and Culture in Oceania* 10:1-13.

• Finney, Ben. 1944. The Other One-Third of the Globe. *Journal of World History* 5(2):273-297.

• Finney, Ben. 1994. *Voyage of Rediscovery: A Cultural Odyssey through Polynesia*. With Marlene Among, Chad Babayan, Tai Crouch, Paul Frost, Bernard Kilonsky, Richard Rhodes, Thomas Schroeder, Dixon Stroup, Nainoa Thompson, Robert Worthington, and Elisa Yadao. Berkeley, University of California Press. 400 pages, 84 figures, 34 drawings. Cloth cover, \$30.00.